

**TOWN OF DAVIE
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. Present were Mayor Truex, Vice-Mayor Paul, Councilmembers Crowley, Hubert and Starkey. Also present were Town Administrator Willi, Town Attorney Kiar, and Town Clerk Muniz recording the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING - BUDGET

Ordinances - First Reading (Second and Final Reading to be held September 21, 2004)

1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2004, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005.

Town Clerk Muniz read the ordinance by title. Mayor Truex announced there would be a second and final public hearing on this ordinance on September 21, 2004.

Mayor Truex advised that the Town's tentative operating millage rate for fiscal year 2005 was 5.1086, a 10.5% increase over the rolled back rate of 4.6240. Mayor Truex announced that the tentative voted debt service millage rate for fiscal year was 0.5211.

Mayor Truex opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Beth Masino, representing Family Central, spoke of the history and background of the non-profit agency. She explained that last year, the agency was able to provide childcare and employment services for many residents. Ms. Masino stated that next year, the agency anticipated that 392 children in Davie would need childcare subsidies. She thanked the Town for its commitment to the agency and asked that it contribute over \$21,000 to help cover their expenses for Davie families. Ms. Masino advised that 7,000 children were currently on the agency's waiting list.

Mayor Truex closed the public hearing.

Mr. Willi advised that staff had prepared a brief synopsis outlining adjustments to the budget.

Budget & Finance Director William Underwood outlined highlights of the budget. He advised that at a previous meeting, a proposal was made to raise the waste collection fee to generate funds for stormwater maintenance needs. Mr. Underwood advised that \$850,000 had been appropriated from the Community Endowment fund for the purpose of improving the Town's pension plan. He advised that the fire assessment fee was tentatively established at \$88 for single-family residents. Mr. Underwood further advised that most parks and recreation fees were being increased across the board. He indicated that the Community Endowment fund would provide \$988,500 to fund pensions, charitable contributions, Potter Park and the Orange Park Program. Mr. Underwood stated that the \$2.6 million being requested from the self-insurance fund to assist in defraying costs for employee health benefits was reduced to \$1,080,143.

Mayor Truex asked if this was the same ad valorem rate as before. Mr. Underwood responded in the affirmative.

Councilmember Hubert made a motion, seconded by Mayor Truex, to approve. In a roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Mayor Truex - yes; Vice-Mayor Paul - yes; Councilmember Crowley - yes; Councilmember Hubert - yes; Councilmember Starkey - yes. (Motion passed 5-0)

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2. AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF DAVIE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2005.

Town Clerk Muniz read the ordinance by title. Mayor Truex advised there would be a second and final public hearing on this ordinance on September 21, 2004.

Mayor Truex opened the public hearing portion of the meeting. As no one spoke, the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember Starkey wanted the acquisition of the Sunny Lakes property reflected in the budget and for Council to look at options for how it would be able to advance purchase the property to get credit for the site. She stated that the project would likely be funded but not in time to make the contract date of September 17th. Councilmember Starkey suggested that Council consider purchasing it at that time and needed to look at financial options that would be reflected in the budget. She stated that the budget would need to reflect the \$3.4 million which would include \$1.7 million to come from Broward County and \$1.7 million to come from the State, which were likely to be funded by next year. Councilmember Starkey advised that if the Town acquired the property, Council needed to discuss these options by the next Council meeting.

Councilmember Hubert thought the purpose of keeping the millage the same was to curb spending. She stated that she was not in favor of spending \$3.4 million up front to acquire this property and felt this amount was a lot of money to spend.

Councilmember Starkey stated that based on her understanding of the Florida League of Cities bond, the worst case scenario was to pay back interest of only 1.5%. She advised that the option Council might prefer to consider was the trust for public lands, where a private non-profit entity would make the purchase. Councilmember Starkey was confident that the Town would receive funding, but this was based on the assumption that several other large projects would fall out of the funding program, giving the Town the possibility of funding by December 2004. She wanted Council to have further options to explore by the September 15th meeting in order to make a decision.

Mayor Truex stated that he appreciated the heads-up but did not feel Council could change the budget at this time. He voiced his enthusiasm about acquiring Sunny Lake but was not enthusiastic about the Town having to go out on a limb to acquire it.

Vice-Mayor Paul agreed and felt that a plan needed to be created. She voiced her uneasiness with money being used from the insurance reserves and endowment funds. Councilmember Hubert indicated that she wanted to be sure the Town was spending money wisely. Vice-Mayor Paul reiterated that she was uncomfortable with money being used from the Town's insurance reserves and endowment fund. She felt Council would have to make serious adjustments in other areas.

Vice-Mayor Paul felt the Town should not be using tax dollars to subsidize various charities and felt it was unfortunate that they had come to depend upon this. She voiced her concern that tax dollars should not directly, or indirectly, be used toward religious organizations. Vice-Mayor Paul felt that Council had to consider an accounting record to show that every dollar given to faith-based organizations was not going to religious purposes. Councilmember Hubert stated she thought that contributions to charities did not come from tax

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dollars. Mayor Truex asked for a clarification. Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen agreed that it could be said that monies given to charities were not tax-generated funds. He explained that every dollar applied to the general fund was \$1 dollar less that the Town had to tax residents in order to cover charitable programs. Mr. Cohen stated that though they might not be tax dollars, the best way to spend these funds was to offset tax dollars. Mayor Truex agreed that these funds were public monies that belonged to the public.

Councilmember Starkey pointed out that Council entertained many discussions on establishing a community trust whereby a private non-profit organization would look into having the charities raise their own funds, and prioritize this given criteria. She asked that more work be done to look into this and for this information to be brought before Council. Councilmember Starkey advised that one of the Town's boards and the Town Clerk's Office liaison, Assistant Town Clerk Barbara McDaniel, had also looked into this. Vice-Mayor Paul stated that the Budget Advisory Committee had also looked into this and pointed out that their recommendation was to not take any money from the budget for charities. She reminded Council that when Chair Kerry Waldee addressed Council at a previous meeting, he read the Committee's recommendations.

Mayor Truex requested that the community trust be agendized for a future Council meeting and asked that the backup include the recommendations from the Budget Advisory Committee. Mr. Willi concurred.

Vice-Mayor Paul felt the increase to the budget could have been shaved in relation to what the Town's expenditures were. She stated that the Town could be more careful and thrifter and the Town needed to prioritize in relation to its needs. Vice-Mayor Paul was concerned that removing \$2 million from the insurance reserves to balance the budget was not appropriate. She felt that any monies the Town had should go toward building up the reserves, which she felt were too low in the event that the Town faced an emergency.

Councilmember Starkey asked Vice-Mayor Paul how she proposed accomplishing this. Vice-Mayor Paul advised that she had offered recommendations at previous workshops and had not gotten all the answers she hoped for. She indicated that she was still looking into options and would have more suggestions in the future. Vice-Mayor Paul voiced her frustration and felt there were problems with the entire budget process. She stated that due to the recent hurricane, Council did not get all the information needed before the current meeting. Mayor Truex agreed and felt that the increase in the Town's spending was "eye-popping", putting the Town at the very edge.

Councilmember Starkey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hubert, to approve. In a roll call vote, the vote was as follows: Mayor Truex - yes; Vice-Mayor Paul - no; Councilmember Crowley - yes; Councilmember Hubert - yes; Councilmember Starkey - yes. (Motion passed 4-1)

Resolution

3. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATE TO BE LEVIED FOR VOTER APPROVED DEBT SERVICE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2004, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2005.

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Town Clerk Muniz read the resolution by title.

Mayor Truex opened the public hearing portion of the meeting. As no one spoke, the public hearing was closed.

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Councilmember Starkey made a motion, seconded by Mayor Truex, to approve. In a roll vote, the vote was as follows: Mayor Truex - yes; Vice-Mayor Paul - yes; Councilmember Hubert - yes; Councilmember Crowley - yes; Councilmember Starkey - yes. (Motion carried 5-0)

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Approved_____

Mayor/Councilmember

Town Clerk